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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Egypt

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SUBJECT Political Alignments in the Sudan

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. The success of Governor General Sir Hubert Huddleston\* in obtaining signed petitions from Sudanese tribal chiefs and from the members of the Administrative Council demanding the independence of the Sudan and total secession from Egypt, has had its repercussions on the leadership of the National Front (al-Gibha al-Wataniyah), the Graduates' Congress (Hizb Mutamar al-Kharighi) and the Brotherhood Party (Hizb al-Ashiqqah), the three units supporting Isma'il al-Azhari and the Sudanese delegation he represents. At a joint meeting early in February they passed resolutions which were indorsed by their supporters and sent to al-Azhari in Cairo, for action. These concerned:
  - (a) The termination of Anglo-Egyptian negotiations.
  - (b) Joint appeal to the United Nations by the Sudan and Egypt.
  - (c) The Sudan's representation in this appeal to <sup>the</sup> United Nations by the members of the Sudanese delegation now in Egypt.
  - (d) Favorable consideration of the claims made by the southern provinces to the Sudanese Government, asking treatment equal to that of the northern provinces.

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Comment: Sir Hubert Huddleston was replaced on 16 March 1947 as Governor General of the Sudan by Sir Robert Howe.

2. The Sudanese Independence Front (al-Gibha al-Istiklaliyah) was urged to press for its demands and show hostility to Egyptian proposals. Under the direction of 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mahdi and supported by the Sudanese Government, members of the Front assailed the celebration festivities sponsored by al-Azhari's men on 11 February 1947 on the occasion of King Faruq's birthday. In a note to the Mudir of Khartum they protested that "those who are arranging these celebrations are squandering the funds of the Graduates' Congress", and demanded the curtailment of the authority vested in the Graduates' Congress until a general assembly is held for organizing new elections.
3. A subscription drive was started by the Sudanese Independence Front for the collection of funds to enable a Sudanese delegation, composed of secessionists, to travel to America "to defend the rights of the Sudan" when the case of Egypt is presented to the United Nations. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mahdi contributed a substantial sum to the fund, which has the approval of the Sudanese Government.

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The function of the delegation will be to combat al-Azhari's efforts at the United Nations in defense of the unity of the Nile Valley.

4. Meanwhile the Nation's Party (Nizab-al-Umma ), another unit supporting al-Mahdi, has established a branch in Cairo at 3 Sulayman Pasha Street, which is the address of the Sudanese Journalists Union. Mahdi-al-Din Ali Hasi al-Sawahingy, Head of the Dongola Sons Club, has been appointed the president of this branch and Ahmad Gunza is acting as secretary. Both men are collecting signatures from local Sudanese residents in support of their party's claims of total independence for the Sudan and the severance of all ties with Egypt.
5. Attempts are being made for a rapprochement between al-Mahdi and al-Azhari on the basis of a compromise agreement favoring al-Mahdi's viewpoints. This movement, which is traced to the Sudanese Government, is expected to fail, because al-Azhari's National Front coalition has been strengthened considerably, despite al-Mahdi's stubborn efforts to separate Sudan from Egypt.

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